

Application No. 09/682,170

RD-29400-1

## REMARKS

Claims 1 to 84 are pending.

Claims "1 to 86 (sic, 84?)" were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ofori et al. and Buysch et al.

The commonly assigned Ofori et al. reference teaches recovery of catalyst constituents for recycle by extraction and evaporation followed by oxidation and reduction (column 5, lines 38 to 44). Buysch et al. teaches catalytic reactivation by treatment with an oxidizing agent. In contrast, Applicants have found that the same Ofori et al. extracted and evaporated catalyst can be used directly as a carbonylation catalyst, without the oxidation and reduction steps specified by the prior art. Further, it has been found that the extracted, evaporated catalyst from a first carbonylation is surprisingly more active than the same carbonylation catalyst composition used in the first carbonylation.

One skilled in the art, would not have been led to a direct carbonylation catalyst reactivation by reducing/oxidation reactivated catalyst teachings. Certainly, one skilled in the art would not have been led to the surprisingly improved directly reactivated catalyst by teachings of different reactivation methods that fail to provide the surprising improvement of the claimed direct catalyst reactivation method.

The rejection of claims 1 to 86 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ofori et al. and Buysch et al. should be withdrawn.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 to 84 are allowable. Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Should the Examiner believe that any further action is necessary in order to place this application in condition for allowance, she is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Oct 24, 2003

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